

F-15 Eagle Recapitalization

Air National Guard



NGAUS

Fiscal Year 2024 Requirements for the Air National Guard



The Issue

Air National Guard F-15 Eagle aircraft continue to deteriorate and requires complete recapitalization with new aircraft in order to effectively support the readiness and lethality requirements of the National Defense Strategy.



A F-15C Eagle from the 144th Fighter Wing, California Air National Guard, takes off while participating in exercise Vigilant Shield.

Background

The F-15 Eagle fighter aircraft has provided the backbone of the Air Force's air dominance mission for more than 40 years. This aircraft, combined with the F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft, is designed to defeat enemy aircraft in order to establish United States control of the airspace above combat zones.

The Air National Guard operates the older-model F-15C/D aircraft and 58% of the Total Air Force F-15C/D fleet. Air National Guard F-15 units deploy in support of overseas contingency operations and provide nearly half of the aircraft required for the aerospace control alert (ACA) mission, a 24/7/365 mission which protects United States airspace.

Air National Guard F-15C/D aircraft are nearly 40 years old and would require significant funding for extensive modernization to remain mission-relevant beyond 2030. Recently, the Air Force decided to begin phasing out the F-15C/D in favor of a new fighter aircraft. While this decision impacts all F-15C/D units, including the Active Component and the Air National Guard, the Air Force has yet to decide which units will be replaced with the F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter or the F-15EX, the most modern version of the F-15.

Providing additional F-35A or F-15EX fighter aircraft to the Air National Guard within defense appropriations legislation is essential to ensure Air National Guard F-15 units continue to remain lethal and ready in support of the National Defense Strategy.

Recommendation

ANG Designation



Designate new fighter aircraft to the Air National Guard within defense appropriations legislation to replace the aging Air National Guard F-15C/D fleet

States Impacted

- CA: Fresno, 144th Fighter Wing
- FL: Jacksonville, 125th Fighter Wing
- LA: New Orleans, 159th Fighter Wing
- MA: Westfield, 104th Fighter Wing
- OR: Klamath Falls, 173rd Fighter Wing
Portland, 142nd Fighter Wing



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